

## CLAIMS

1. In a wireless local area network, a method of communicating cellular network information comprising:

5 receiving cellular network information associated with one or more cellular networks; formatting the cellular network information in a generic container message; and transmitting, in an extensible authentication procedure, the generic container message for receipt by a mobile station.

10 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the generic container message includes a technology-specific container.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the generic container message includes a tag field for identifying the generic container message.

15 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the generic container message includes a data field for identifying a technology standard or standard organization associated with a first cellular network.

20 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the generic container message includes a data field for identifying a standard or standard organization associated with a first cellular network, and the cellular network information includes first cellular network information which identifies a first cellular network.

25 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the cellular network information is received from a network database.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the cellular network information includes: first cellular network information from a first cellular network; and  
30 second cellular network information from a second cellular network.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the cellular network information includes:  
first cellular network information from a first cellular network having a first  
information content; and  
second cellular network information from a second cellular network having a second  
5 information content different from the first information content.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the cellular network information includes:  
first cellular network information which identifies a first cellular network; and  
second cellular network information which identifies a second cellular network.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein the cellular network information includes a  
mobile network code (MNC) and a mobile country code (MCC) which identifies a first  
cellular network.

11. In a mobile station, a method of receiving and processing cellular network  
information from a wireless local area network comprising:  
receiving, in an extensible authentication procedure, a generic container message  
from a wireless local area network;  
decoding the generic container message to identify cellular network information from  
one or more cellular networks; and  
20 storing the cellular network information in memory of the mobile station.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the generic container message includes a  
technology-specific container.

13. The method of claim 11, wherein the generic container message includes a tag  
field which identifies the generic container message.

14. The method of claim 11, wherein the generic container message includes a  
data field for identifying a technology standard or standard organization associated with a  
first cellular network.

15. The method of claim 11, wherein the cellular network information includes:  
first cellular network information from a first cellular network; and  
second cellular network information from a second cellular network.

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16. The method of claim 11, wherein the cellular network information includes a  
mobile network code (MNC) and a mobile country code (MCC) which identifies a first  
cellular network.

10 17. The method of claim 11, wherein the cellular network information includes  
first cellular network information which identifies a first cellular network and second cellular  
network information which identifies a second cellular network, the method further  
comprising:

15 selecting one of the first and the second cellular networks for communication through  
the wireless local area network.

18. The method of claim 11, wherein the cellular network information includes:  
first cellular network information from a first cellular network which operates in  
accordance with a first communication standard; and

20 second cellular network information from a second cellular network which operates  
in accordance with a second communication standard different from the first communication  
standard.

19. The method of claim 11, wherein the cellular network information includes:  
25 first cellular network information from a first cellular network having a first  
information content; and

second cellular network information from a second cellular network having a second  
information content different from the first information content.

30 20. The method of claim 11, wherein one of the cellular networks operates in  
accordance with a 3<sup>rd</sup> Generation Project Partnership (3GPP) standard.